

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SEOUL 02844 161023Z

11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

IO-13 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 DHA-02 /085 W

----- 104072

P R 160926Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6646

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 2844

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: REACTION TO FRASER TESTIMONY ABATING

REF: STATE 85445, SEOUL 2721, 2652

SUMMARY: WELL ORCHESTRATED PRESS AND LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN DIRECTED AGAINST REP. DONALD FRASER IS ABATING AT DIRECTION OF GOVERNMENT. ONLY MINOR ITEMS APPEARED IN PRESS APRIL 16 FOLLOWING ORDER TO EDITORS TO DROP SUBJECT. OTHER SOURCES REPORT SIMILAR INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN PASSED TO PRIVATE GROUPS WHICH WERE PREPARING ANTI-FRASER STATEMENTS. DESPITE FACT THAT ONLY GOVERNMENT VERSION FRASER REMARKS APPEARED IN PRESS, NEGATIVE REACTION TO STATEMENT THAT SECURITY OF KOREA NOT IMPORTANT TO U.S. AND JAPAN HAS CAUSED WIDESPREAD AND OBVIOUSLY GENUINE CONCERN AMONG MODERATES AND OPPOSITIONISTS ALIKE MANY OF WHOM ARE VOLUNTARILY WORKING ON REBUTTAL STATEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING FULL SPATE OF EDITORIALS AND OTHER ARTICLES, INCLUDING VICIOUS CHOSUN ILBO EDITORIAL ON APRIL 15, GOVERNMENT-ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN OF CRITICISM FOCUSED ON REP. DONALD FRASER AND HIS REPORTED STATEMENT BEFORE SFRC THAT SECURITY OF KOREA NOT ESSENTIAL TO U.S. OR JAPAN VIRTUALLY DISAPPEARED FROM PRESS APRIL 16, AND THERE ARE INDICATIONS FROM OTHER SOURCES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SEOUL 02844 161023Z

AS WELL THAT ROKG MAY BE CALLING HALT TO CAMPAIGN. U.S. MISSION-

ARY TEACHING AT METHODIST SEMINARY TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 15 THAT DEAN HAD RECEIVED WORD THAT MORNING TO HALT PREPARATION OF ANY STATEMENT DIRECTED AT REP. FRASER. PRESS SOURCES REPORT THAT WORD ALSO PASSED TO NEWSPAPER EDITORS SAME DAY TO TURN OFF CAMPAIGN. ONLY ONE OR TWO MINOR ITEMS ON FRASER APPEARED IN INSIDE PAGES OF PAPERS APRIL 16 AND THESE PROBABLY SET IN TYPE ONE OR TWO DAYS BEFORE STOP ORDER.

2. AT SAME TIME, GOVERNMENT HAS CONTINUED TO SUPPRESS PUBLICATION OF LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD FROM 119 U.S. CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN KOREA.

3. ALTHOUGH ROKG HAS CLEARLY EXPLOITED FRASER STATEMENT FOR ITS OWN PURPOSES, STATEMENT THAT SECURITY OF ROK NOT IMPORTANT TO U.S. OR JAPAN HAS GENERATED REAL WAVE OF DISMAY AND RESENTMENT AMONG KOREANS GENERALLY. MODERATES AND OPPOSITIONISTS ALIKE HAVE REGISTERED NEGATIVE REACTIONS AND MANY ARE VOLUNTARILY PLANNING TO GET OUT STATEMENTS CONDEMNING FRASER FOR HIS REMARKS. WE HAVE HEARD THAT AT THURSDAY MORNING PRAYER MEETING, MRS. KIM TAE-CHUNG EXPRESSED DISAGREEMENT WITH FRASER'S STATEMENT. SIMILARLY, NUMBER OF CHURCH GROUPS ARE ALSO PREPARING STATEMENTS.

ONE EXPERIENCED U.S. MISSIONARY DESCRIBED GENERAL KOREAN REACTION TO FRASER STATEMENT AS EMOTIONAL RESPONSE TO GENUINE FEAR OF ANOTHER WAR WITH NORTH KOREAN COMMUNISTS AND THEIR TOTAL DETESTATION OF KIM IL-SUNG. IN THEIR EYES, FRASER STATEMENT, NO MATTER IF IT IS DISTORTED IN PRESS, PLAYS INTO THE HANDS OF THE NORTH KOREANS AND IS TO BE OPPOSED WITHOUT QUESTION. IN CONVERSATION WITH OFFICER OF CURRENT AFFAIRS BRANCH OF UNC, DR. KIM TONG-KIL, FORMER PROFESSOR AT YONSEI UNIVERSITY WHO SPENT TEN MONTHS IN PRISON FOR OPPOSITION TO ROKG ARTICULATED THIS CONCERN. HE STATED THAT "DISSENT IN ROK IS QUELLED BY ONE OVERRIDING FACT: THE ENORMITY OF THE THREAT FROM NORTH KOREA AND FACT THAT UNDER KIM IL-SUNG THE KOREAN PEOPLE WOULD SUFFER UNDER A TRUE DICTATORSHIP, SOMETHING WE ARE YET FAR FROM".

4. THROUGHOUT CAMPAIGN ROKG HAS CAREFULLY SOUGHT TO PREVENT ATTACKS ON REP. FRASER FROM DEVELOPING INTO ANTI-AMERICAN BROADSIDE THAT COULD DAMAGE US/ROK RELATIONSHIP, AND PERSONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SEOUL 02844 161023Z

RANGING FROM ARDENT SUPPORTERS OF GOVERNMENT TO MAJOR OPPOSITION FIGURES HAVE EXPRESSED TO EMBOFFS THEIR CONCERN THAT SITUATION NOT GET OUT OF HAND. ON EVENING APRIL 14, DRP FLOOR LEADER KIM YONG-TAE, ONE OF EARLIEST AND MOST VOCIFEROUS CRITICS OF FRASER'S REMARKS, INVITED DCM AND SENIOR POLITICAL ADVISER TO CINCUNC TO DINNER ATTENDED ALSO BY NEW VICE FONMIN AND CHAIRMEN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENSE AND FINANCE COMMITTEES. PRESS REPORTS APRIL 15 DESCRIBED

AFFAIR AS OCCASION FOR GOVERNMENT LAWMAKERS TO TRANSLATE INTO ACTION THEIR ANGER AT CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S THOUGHTLESS REMARKS. IN ACTUALITY, ONLY KIM YONG-TAE MENTIONED SUBJECT AND HIS DISCUSSION WITH DCM TOOK FORM OF STATEMENT OF NEED FOR BOTH AMERICANS AND KOREANS TO KEEP REACTIONS FROM GETTING OUT OF HAND.

5. COMMENT: FRASER STATEMENT HAS ENABLED ROKG TO JUSTIFY ITS OWN POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS SINCE STATEMENT SPOTLIGHTED THREAT FROM NORTH IN KOREAN MINDS AND SEEMS TO HAVE BROUGHT ALL SIDES TOGETHER IN COMMON CAUSE. MOREOVER, ATTACK ON FRASER SCREENED SUPPRESSION OF NEWS OF LETTER FROM 119 CONGRESSMEN. LETTERS FROM VARIOUS GROUPS PROTESTING FRASER STATEMENT WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO APPEAR. HOWEVER, WITH EMBASSY PRODDING AND TO AVOID UNDESIRED WIDER SCALE ANTI U.S. CAMPAIGN, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.
SNEIDER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, FOREIGN RELATIONS, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SEOUL02844
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760144-1041
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760454/aaaabtcn.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 85445, 76 SEOUL 2721
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <21 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO FRASER TESTIMONY ABATING
TAGS: PINT, KS, (FRASER, DONALD M)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006